In the claims:

58. **(currently amended)** A method for identifying a compound which decreases the activity of osteoprotegerin binding protein (OPGbp) ~~of Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4)~~ comprising: adding the compound to an assay under conditions where the compound binds OPGbp of Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4) or a soluble form thereof; and measuring the activity of OPGbp, wherein a decrease in osteoclast formation in the presence of the compound indicates that the compound decreases the activity of OPGbp.

59. **(currently amended)** The method of Claim 58 ~~43~~ wherein the compound binds to OPGbp of Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4) ~~or a soluble form thereof~~.

60. **(currently amended)** The method of Claim 58 ~~43~~ wherein the compound binds to OPGbp and blocks binding of OPGbp to human ODAR.

61. **(currently amended)** The method of Claim 58 ~~43~~ wherein the compound binds to an extracellular domain of human OPGbp comprising residues 69-317 as shown in SEQ ID NO:4 or a fragment thereof.

62. **(currently amended)** The method of Claim 58 ~~43~~ wherein the activity of OPGbp being measured is osteoclast formation.

63. **(currently amended)** The method of Claim 58 ~~43~~ wherein osteoclast formation is measured in a cell culture assay.

64. **(currently amended)** The method of Claim 58 ~~43~~ wherein osteoclast formation is measured in vivo.

65. **(currently amended)** The method of Claim 58 ~~43~~ wherein a decrease in osteoclast formation results in an increase in bone density.

66. **(currently amended)** The method of Claim 58 ~~43~~ wherein the compound increases bone density.

67. **(currently amended)** The method of Claim 58 ~~43~~ wherein the compound decreases bone resorption.

68. **(currently amended)** The method of Claim 58 ~~43~~ wherein the compound is an antibody or fragment thereof.

69 – 70. Cancelled.